

The Scroll

OF THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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SERMON ON MAIMON - GHETTO REBEL

Life of Lithuanian Philosopher to Be Next Subject in Rabbi Steinberg's Series on Heresies

Solomon Maimon, philosopher, vagabond and rascal, will be the subject of Rabbi Steinberg's sermon on Friday evening, March 8th. The story of this 18th century Lithuanian character, who directed his cynical pen against the ghetto and what it represented, will be the fourth in the current Sabbath eve series on "Modern Jewish Heretics and What They Rebelled Against." The cycle will be concluded on Friday evening, March 15th, when the bizarre life of the Jewish anti-Semite, Otto Weininger, will be treated.

At the last Sabbath eve service, Rabbi Steinberg followed his previous lectures

MEDIEVAL CATHOLICISM RELATED TO JUDAISM

Adult Class Continues Christianity Survey

The Medieval Church and its relation to Judaism will provide the next subject for discussion at the Adult Education Committee's comparative religion course on Monday evening, March 18th. Rabbi Steinberg will deliver the second lecture of this series on Christianity which was initiated at the group's last meeting when primitive Christianity was treated.

The session on March 4th was devoted to the life and teachings of Jesus and their relation to the main body of contemporary Judaism. In addition, the work and influence of Paul, the growth of the early Christian church and its separation from the parent Jewish body were examined in their historic and doctrinal perspectives.

Current Events Group

At its last meeting, the new course on Current Events in Relation to Judaism summed up its survey of the European situation, undertaken at the previous session with a study of problems in the Balkans.

Plans to analyze current events as they are reported in the news are made at each session, with different members of the class delegated to lead the discussion.

on Uriel d'Acosta, rebel against ritual and Baruch Spinoza, decrier of dogma, with an analysis of the career of Heinrich Heine. His graphic description of this great poet depicted a man who, despite strong emotional and intellectual sympathy with the religious and cultural traditions of Judaism, nevertheless sought to escape the disabilities which their outward acceptance involved.

Anti-Semitism Breeds Assimilation

In the conversion of Heine to Protestantism, Rabbi Steinberg found confirmation of the fact that "anti-Semitism which is so often regarded as a preservative of Judaism has the opposite effect as well." He pointed out that those who believe the pressure of prejudice a necessary circumstance for the survival of Judaism may fail to realize that prejudice creates the incentive for assimilation.

In his sermon on Spinoza, Rabbi Steinberg drew his most pointed observation from the former's excommunication by the Jewish community of Amsterdam: the danger which inelasticity of doctrine presents to organized religion. The Rabbi affirmed the need for a clear-cut philosophy as a basis to religion. At the same time, however, he insisted that any outlook must be sufficiently pliable to absorb advances in science and philosophy. Refusal to admit protests within the confines of Judaism may eliminate constructive contributions to the adjustment of religious outlook to changing environment.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Young Folks League

Tuesday evening, March 5th, 8:30 P.M.

Friday Evening Service

March 8th, 8:30 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat in Vestry

Saturday Morning Service

March 9th, 9:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation

10:30 A.M.

Sunday School Sessions

March 10th, 9:45 A.M.

Young Folks League Social

Sunday evening, March 10th

Choral Group

Monday evening, March 11th

Sisterhood Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 12th, 1 P.M.

Emigre Group

Wednesday, March 13th, 8:30 P.M.

Junior Congregation Oneg Shabbat

Friday afternoon, March 15th

Friday Evening Service

March 15th, 8:30 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat in Vestry

Saturday Morning Service

March 16th, 9:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation

10:30 A.M.

Purim Carnival

Sunday afternoon, March 17th

PURIM EVE NOTICE

Members of the congregation are reminded of the fact that Purim Eve this year is Saturday night, March 23rd, and are asked to keep that evening free — to join in the reading of the Megillah in the Synagogue and in the Purim program which will follow it.

Ancient Rabbinic Teachings

by RABBI ERWIN ZIMET

"And Moses lit the candles before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded him."

Our rabbis asked: Why was it God's will to have a light set up for him?

They answer by telling the story of a man who could see and one who was blind. Both went the same way, the blind man led by his friend. In the evening, they arrived at an inn and rested from their way. The seeing man said to the blind one, "Light the torch for me."

Did he need the blind man in order to see? No! But he did not wish the people to say that he did everything for the blind and the blind nothing for him.

God is the seeing man, and Israel is the blind one. God wishes the nations to say of Israel: Lo, they light the way for the Lord.

Program of Service Music

In view of the fact that the musical portion of Friday evening services is completely changed every two weeks, the Scroll is reviving a policy of announcing in each issue, the music scheduled between publication dates. The musical service to be heard on March 8th and 15th will be:

Ma Tovu.....	L. Lewandowski
Borchu.....	A. W. Binder
Shma Yisroel.....	A. W. Binder
Mi Chomocho.....	L. Lewandowski
Ushmor Tzaysaynu..	D. J. Putterman
V'shomru.....	G. H. Federlein
May the Words.....	B. Whitefield
Kiddush.....	D. J. Putterman
Va-anachnu.....	E. J. Stark

LAST CALL FOR SINGERS

Because present members of the Choral Group are now in the midst of rehearsing for the annual Friday evening service at which they sing, Cantor David Putterman, leader of the group, has announced that Monday evening, March 11th, will be the last opportunity for recruits to join. The service for which preparations are now being made will take place some time in May. The Choral Group meets every Monday evening in the Synagogue from 8 to 9 P.M.

MRS. SOSKIN ADDRESSES PARENT-TEACHER GROUP

Brooklyn Educator Discusses Parochial Schooling

Mrs. Sophie Soskin, director of the Center Academy of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the newly formed Parent-Teacher Association on the evening of February 27th. As the principal of a large private progressive school, which makes Jewish values a regular part of its curriculum, Mrs. Soskin gave a vivid account of the problems and conflicts which arise when an attempt is made to communicate two traditions.

Commends Our School

In speaking on "Dual Culturalism in the Life of the Child," Mrs. Soskin outlined the procedures which have been adopted in her school to overcome these difficulties. Besides an account of her experiences, the speaker gave her impressions of our own school. She commended the curriculum and teaching staff but spoke regretfully of the inadequate physical facilities. Mr. I. B. Oseas presided over a period of animated discussion that followed the conclusion of the guest's formal talk.

The meeting was ended after an interval during which Miss Grace Merlub of the Sunday School staff taught the assembled parents several Purim songs.

COMING BAR MITZVAHS

The month of March will see the roster of the Junior Bar Mitzvah Boys substantially augmented. On March 2nd, Roy Cohn, son of Judge and Mrs. Albert Cohn will formally attain his Hebrew majority, to be followed on March 9th by Lloyd Merkelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Merkelson. On March 23rd, Lawrence Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Phillips, will be confirmed while the Bar Mitzvah of Sanford Hahn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Hahn, will take place a week later.

To the Bar Mitzvahs and their families, our warmest felicitations and hopes that the young men may attain their highest potentialities in life as Jews and American citizens.

THE CANTOR

by BERTHA SAMBERG MARDEN

Through stained windows the diffused sun
Forms a rainbow arch
Upon an altar.

The cantor pours his melody,
And the golden notes
Rise upon the rainbow arch—
Rise and fill the synagogue
With the color and the beauty
Of the Universe.

The Cantor sings
The song of hope—the song of hope
Across the centuries of despair.
And the burdens of man
Melt away in the synagogue,
As long ago,
David soothed the pains of Saul.

*Dedicated to Cantor David Putterman and
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Hebrew.*

SISTERHOOD FLASHES

by MINETTE S. HOLZMAN

Now that the Dutch Supper has been brought to a successful accomplishment, what are all these secret meetings being held in and out of the synagogue by Sisterhood members? Well, you know Sisterhood: it never rests, and already is planning its forthcoming events.

Mark Your Date Books Now For:

Tuesday, March 26th at 1:30 P.M. On this day, Sisterhood will celebrate its birthday—and what a birthday party it will be—full of fun and gaiety and many surprises. Mrs. Pauline Mendel will chair this function.

The meeting on April 16th will be a departure for Sisterhood—a tea at the Hotel Bolivar, under the chairmanship of Dorothy Geller. An unusual and fascinating program is being arranged by Mrs. Clara Ostriker.

The social season of the year will be climaxed by the Spring Luncheon, Musicales and Bridge at the Hotel Astor on Wednesday, May 1st. Ads for the Journal are being solicited by Mrs. Hermine Berger, chairman. Please apply for tickets for the Luncheon to Mrs. Sanford Cohen.

Book Review Course Sponsored

A spring lecture course, devoted to reviewing six current books of varying interest—novels, biographies and others—will be given under the auspices of the Sisterhood. We consider ourselves privileged to have Rabbi Steinberg lead the group and to hear his keen and clear analyses. The course will be given at the Synagogue on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings in each month. Enroll now if you want to take advantage of this splendid opportunity to get "first hand" information on the latest books. Watch your mail carefully for further details.

OPERETTA TO FEATURE SCHOOL PURIM FESTIVAL Masquerade Also Included in Holiday Celebration

A Purim Carnival for and by the Sunday School has been announced for Sunday, March 17th at 2 P.M. by Samuel Grand, principal of the school. A play, an original operetta and a masquerade with prizes are to be featured at this holiday event.

Miss Grace Merlub and Mr. Moshe Davis of the school staff are coaching members of the high school class in the original Purim operetta. It will present a startling revision of the story of Esther and Ahasuerus, and will make some unpredictable revelations not reported in the Book of Esther.

Operetta Cast

The cast will include Florence Suckno as Esther, Walter Scheinman as king, Hortense Levy as Vashti, Mickey Weiss as Haman, and Norman Siegel as Mordecai.

Refreshments will be served and Bazaar booths will be set up in the Vestry rooms for the occasion.

WITH THE COTERIES

The Coterie Crier, organ of the Coterie Clubs of the Synagogue, has announced a jumbo issue to be released during the week of March 3rd. The Crier, the most recent edition of which was distributed on February 9th, is edited and published by a committee composed of members of the three clubs. As another joint project of the groups, the Coteries are collaborating in a dance which is being scheduled for March 28th.

Junior Coterie had a skating party at the Fordham Skating Rink on Saturday, February 24th. A large number of the members turned out and reported good skating and organ music.

The Senior Coterie group sponsored a tea in honor of Rabbi Zimet on Sunday afternoon, March 3rd at the home of Louis Heller. Rabbi Zimet presented an interesting discussion on the subject, "A Lesson of Destruction," taking up the last 150 years of German Jewry.

TEMPLE TID-BITS

By FAY P. WIENER

Information Please: Who was the *femme charmante* who attended services Friday night be-minked from scalp to knee, and wearing saddle leather riding boots? Even WE haven't found out as yet! . . . **Lids off:** To Mrs. Benjamin Sack and her Dutch Supper Committee for an evening gay, bright and, incidentally, profitable . . . To Dr. Allen A. Goldbloom on his election as president of the Eastern Medical Society . . . To Rabbi Erwin Zimet, *raconteur par excellence*, whose talents might also brand him as guitar serenader, woodcarver, violinist and artist . . . **Hallelujah:** Most of the "snow-dodgers" are back and Friday nights are taking on that glamorous B.F. (Before Florida) look again . . . **Suggestion for next year:** How about opening a Floridian branch of the synagogue for January and February? . . . **Discovery of the week:** That the rich resonant voice coming to us over the ether waves originates in *Walter King*, the Apollo of Row "K" . . . **Signs of spring:** Mrs. Hermine Berger and Mrs. Sanford Cohen, respective "bosses" of the Journal and Ticket Committees for the May 1st Luncheon and Musicale, respectfully declaiming from respective soap boxes . . . **Question box:** Which congregant is the step-daughter of Sophie Tucker? . . . Which member can reel off the dinner menus of Lauritz Melchior and Greta Stueckgold? . . . Which congregant's chauffeur is a former titled aristocrat of the pre-war Russian nobility? . . . **Fashion notes:** Fred Finn and his red carnation . . . Dr. Bill Karmioli and his fur-collared overcoat . . . Alex Ostriker and his nonchalant pork-pie (kosher fedora) . . . **Sweet and low:** Messrs. Monroe Wechsler and Jordan Stern have joined the Choral Group. We hope that Cantor Putterman will be able to restrain their boogie-woogie instincts . . . **Potential president:** A little heavenly *bundle* that coos to the name "Andrew" is resting comfortably at Dr. and Mrs. David Ball's residence. We congratulate the baby's wisdom on his choice of parents . . . **Thrill of the week:** While on a hunting trip across the dials, unknowingly tuning in to a glowing review of and tribute to "As A Driven Leaf" by a prominent radio commentator . . . **Dinner parties:** The Board of Directors of the Henry George School of Social Science were entertained by the Ezra Cohens last week. Mr. Cohen is not only a director of the organization, but one of the school's most ardent disciples . . . Mrs. Louis Kraft, secretary to the Department of Water Supply, followed in the tradition of true civic spirit at her affair last week by plastering her walls with numerous pleas among which was, "Liquor here flows freely, but PLEASE conserve the water" . . . **Anniversary greetings and congratulations:** It is with a feeling of special pleasure that we congratulate the Jacob Friedmans on their 35th anniversary. Geographically they may be miles away, but sentimentally, they are very close to our hearts . . . To the David Hoexters on their 40th . . . To the S. S. Wolfsons on their 25th . . . To the Jerome J. Oppenheimers on their 25th . . . To the Milton Weills and the Henry Brands.

Luncheon to Mrs. Sanford Cohen